

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all listing of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended): A method for protecting digital content, comprising:
 - providing digital content organized by as a sequence of frames to a rendering unit;
 - altering image content within the rendering unit in response to tags in a data stream provided ~~thereto~~ to the rendering unit to remove, add, or modify an item in ;
 - ~~wherein~~ the image content that is a portion of the digital content visible to a viewer, and wherein the alterations of the image content are not visually perceptible for real-time display, but are visually perceptible in a recorded version of the image content thereof,
 - the step of altering image content further including detecting one of the tags in the data stream associated with a frame in ~~[[a]]~~ the sequence of frames, ~~[[a]]~~ the portion of the frame being modified from a preceding frame in the sequence to generate an altered frame; and
 - utilizing the tag to access an action table to cause either the altered frame or the frame to be displayed ~~and the sequence of frames to be displayed as unaltered only if called for by the action table.~~
2. (Original): The method, according to claim 1, wherein the step of altering comprises randomly selecting frames for alteration.
3. (Currently Amended): The method, according to claim 1, wherein altering comprises distorting ~~removing~~ at least one object visible to the viewer in ~~from~~ a frame.
4. (Previously Presented): The method, according to claim 1, wherein altering comprises relocating at least one object visible to the viewer in a frame.

5. (Previously Presented): The method, according to claim 1, wherein altering comprises adding at least one object visible to the viewer to a frame.
6. (Original): The method, according to claim 5, wherein the rendering unit is a graphics processing unit.
7. (Currently Amended): A device for protecting digital content, comprising:
 a rendering unit configured to detect tags in a data stream and to associate the detected tags with commands for altering image content to remove, add, or modify an item in, ~~wherein~~ the image content that is a portion of the digital content visible to a viewer, and wherein the alterations of the image content are not visually perceptible for real-time display, but are visually perceptible in a recorded version of the image content thereof, the rendering unit including a tag detector for detecting the tags in the data stream, one of the tags being associated with one frame in a sequence of frames, a portion of the one frame being altered from a preceding frame in the sequence to generate an altered frame; and
 an action table that is accessed utilized to cause either the altered frame or the one frame to be displayed ~~and the sequence of frames to be displayed as unaltered only if called for by the action table.~~
8. (Original): The device, according to claim 7, wherein the rendering unit includes a table for storing symbols used when associating the detected tags with the commands.
9. (Original): The device, according to claim 8, wherein the rendering unit comprises memory for storing overlays for alteration of the image content.
10. (Original): The device, according to claim 8, wherein the rendering unit comprises a random number generator for randomly selecting when to apply the commands.
11. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the random number generator randomly selects when to apply overlays.

12. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the rendering unit comprises a decryptor.

13. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the rendering unit is configured to detect watermarks and to alter image frames in response to detected watermarks.

14. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the rendering unit detects watermarks and provides a graphical user interface in response to at least one detected watermark.

15. (Original): The device, according to claim 14, wherein the graphical user interface is provide after detecting a threshold number of watermarks.

16. (Original): The device, according to claim 15, wherein the graphical user interface provides a data entry block for entry of a key.

17. (Original): The device, according to claim 16, wherein the rendering unit is configured to down sample in response to a failure to enter an acceptable key.

18. (Original): The device, according to claim 16, wherein the rendering unit is configured to disable recording in response to a failure to enter an acceptable key.

19. (Original): The device, according to claim 16, wherein the rendering unit is configured to randomly alter the selected frames in response to a failure to enter an acceptable key.

20. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a digital video camera.

21. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a digital video disc recorder.

22. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a compact disc recorder.

23. (Original): The recording device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a hard disk drive recorder.

24. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a digital tape drive recorder.

25. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a floppy disk drive recorder.

26. - 33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 wherein a rendering unit causes display of the altered frame upon detection of the tag unless a proper response is entered by the user.

35. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34 including the step of applying the tag to a randomizer to randomly apply or ignore the tag or send the tag to the action table.

36. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 including the step of, in response to the detection of the tag, invoking a graphical user interface (GUI) to allow a user to enter a key to prevent the action table from being accessed so that the unaltered frames are not displayed.